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4. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration of the catalyst used in the fixed bed is in the range of 0.1 wt% to 1 wt% of activated charcoal.

5. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared as described and claimed in our co-pending application no. NF 260/98.

6. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

7. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature is preferably in the range of 20°C to 50°C.

8. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pressure is preferably in the range of 5kg/cm² - 8 kg/cm².

9. (amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid hourly space velocity (LHSV) is preferably in the range of 1 hr⁻¹ to 6 hr⁻¹.

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Please add the following claims:

10. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein halogenated metal phthalocyanine catalyst used is selected from dichloro cobalt phthalocyanine and

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dibromo cobalt phthalocyanine.

11. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the concentration of the catalyst used in the fixed bed is in the range of 0.1 wt% to 1 wt% of activated charcoal.

12. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the concentration of the catalyst used in the fixed bed is in the range of 0.1 wt% to 1 wt% of activated charcoal.

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13. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared as described and claimed in our co-pending application no. NF 260/98.

14. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared as described and claimed in our co-pending application no. NF 260/98.

15. (new) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared as described and claimed in our co-pending application no. NF 260/98.

16. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum fraction used is

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selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

17. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

18. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

19. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

20. (new) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the petroleum fraction used is selected from diesel, kerosene and FCC gasoline.

REMARKS

The above amendatory action is taken solely for the purpose of avoiding claim fees that would otherwise accrue due to the presence of multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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